



# *The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

*Executive Office of Environmental Affairs*

*251 Causeway Street, Suite 900*

*Boston, MA 02114-2119*

Mitt Romney  
GOVERNOR

Kerry Healey  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Ellen Roy Herzfelder  
SECRETARY

Tel: (617) 626-1000

Fax: (617) 626-1181

or (617) 626-1180

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 11, 2005

**CONTACT:** Joe O'Keefe  
617-626-1126

## **MASSACHUSETTS ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS SECRETARY** **VISITS NEW BEDFORD**

**NEW BEDFORD** — Environmental Affairs Secretary Ellen Roy Herzfelder announced her new Coastal Wetlands, Estuaries, and Bays (Coastal WEB) Initiative today. This initiative focuses on high priority issues that are central to coastal municipalities – stormwater, land acquisition, coastal hazards, smart growth, and habitat restoration – and provides project funding. As a result, six South Coast communities: New Bedford, Fairhaven, Somerset, Lakeville, Carver and Wareham will receive \$153,000 in grants.

“Our coast and ocean waters play a vital role in Massachusetts and it is important to balance human activities with appropriate and effective management of coastal resources,” said Secretary Herzfelder. “Smart growth strategies are very important to the environmental, fiscal, and social health of the Commonwealth. These grants will assist communities with the implementation of zoning, subdivision, and other land use regulations that will make a real difference to future generations.”

Coastal WEB will capitalize on the state’s existing network of estuary programs by coordinating efforts to realize greater ecological, economic, and recreation benefits. The goal of the initiative is to provide seamless coordination in coastal resources management. Another goal of the initiative is to increase partnerships among local, state, and federal agencies, nonprofit groups, citizens, and businesses and recognize that everyone can play a role in restoring, preserving, and protecting our estuaries.

The state’s Smart Growth Technical Assistance Grant Program, part of the effort led by the Office for Commonwealth Development, is an important function to achieving smart growth in partnership with the communities of Massachusetts. These grants also respond to concerns expressed by communities and regional planning agencies about the lack of state resources available to assist with realization of smart growth goals. “The rest of the world is starting to discover our little piece of heaven down here and that’s both good and bad,” said Senator Mark

Montingy. “Growth brings jobs, it brings investment, but if done poorly, it also brings sprawl. I am proud to stand here today with a Secretary of Environmental Affairs that loves our South Coast almost as much as I do. The investment of these grant funds will reap tremendous returns in the form of better, more livable communities tomorrow.”

The Coastal WEB Initiative will fund low-impact development (LID)/smart growth workshops and support the distribution of LID and Smart Growth Toolkits coast-wide. It will also assist non-profits and the towns of Carver, Plymouth, and Wareham with developing smart growth strategies for the Makepeace lands in those communities.

### **Smart Growth Technical Assistance Grants for South Coast Communities**

**Carver** (Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD)): \$30,000 toward attainment of planning and zoning consistency via implementation of Open Space Residential Design; Townhouse; Site Plan Review; Village Center; and other zoning bylaws.

**Fairhaven:** \$11,250 for the completion of a Water Conservation Plan consistent with DEP guidelines.

**Lakeville** (SRPEDD): \$30,000 for modifying their zoning to make it consistent with their Master Plan, including adopting Transit-Oriented Development; Transfer of Development Rights; and Cluster Subdivision regulations.

**New Bedford:** \$22,500 for the creation of smart growth zoning and public design guidelines for the 95-acre Hicks-Logan-Sawyer District.

**Somerset:** \$25,000 for a Town Center bylaw and design guidelines.

**Wareham** (SRPEDD): \$30,000 to coordinate zoning with their Master Plan; to implement cluster development “by-right”; and to initiate a Transfer of Development Rights program.

A total of \$175,000 will be distributed to Coastal WEB projects in the remainder of Fiscal Year 2005 with \$79,000 allocated to communities in southeastern Massachusetts. Through the Smart Growth Technical Assistance Grant Program, the state was able to fund 41 Smart Growth Grant proposals, totaling \$650,000 to be completed within the next six months, \$153,225 to southeastern communities.

###

### **Coastal WEB Fiscal Year 2005 Funded Projects:**

- Increased technical support for implementing stormwater management programs for Buzzards Bay municipalities.
- Implement a key phase of the local, state, and federal Town Brook Herring Run Restoration Project in Plymouth. This phase - Brewster Gardens - will increase tidal flushing to Town Brook to improve water quality, restore natural stream bottom, and improve the upstream passage of anadromous fish during normal high tides.
- Fund sub-regional workshops, introducing an integrated holistic Low-Impact Development/Smart Growth approach to local and regional planning, distributing the LID and Smart Growth Toolkit coast-wide.
- Assist non-profits and Carver, Plymouth, and Wareham with focused development of smart growth consistent land use alternatives for the Makepeace lands in those communities.
- Implement an anadromous fish restoration plan for the opportunity to take advantage of available federal funding sources and additional technical assistance to towns and other groups concerning fish passage.
- Assess coastal wetlands trends from Boston North to the New Hampshire border to provide an understanding of the historical and recent changes to salt marsh wetlands.
- Develop a regional resource management planning process to assist local officials with local/regional planning and protection efforts within a coastal ACEC. Public outreach and analysis will identify goals, needs assessment, and products for resource management planning.
- Design a public access plan for an estuary river walk park and a boat ramp for access to Boston Harbor Islands.